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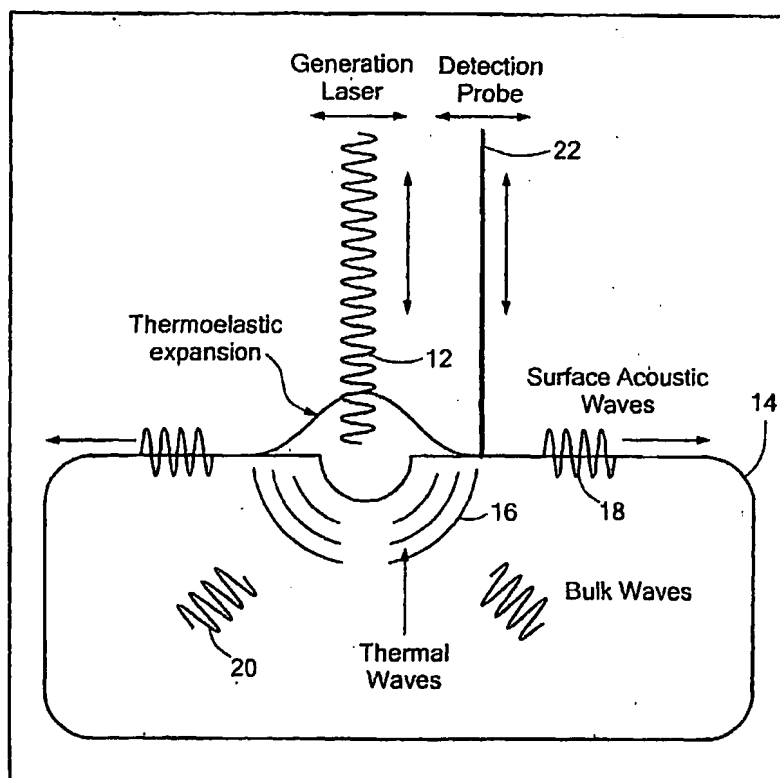
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(54) Title: **CHARACTERIZATION OF MICRO- AND NANO SCALE MATERIALS BY ACOUSTIC WAVE GENERATION WITH A CW MODULATED LASER**



(57) Abstract: Apparatus for analyzing thin surface layers. An acoustic wave generating laser beam is amplitude modulated with continuous wave modulation of a frequency in the megahertz to gigahertz range and an optical system directs the modulated radiation to a surface of a thin surface layer. This in turn causes an acoustic wave that is sensed and analyzed to provide an indication of properties of thin surface layer.



FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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